

NBC BRIEFING

24 October 1957

GUATEMALA

- I. Late last night the Guatemalan army under Defense Minister Colonel Juan F. Oliva declared the 20 October presidential election results null and void.
 - A. Oliva has been under strong pressure from his army colleagues to have the army take over the reins.
 - B. Since the election there have been violent popular demonstrations and a spreading general strike in protest against what the defeated candidate charged was a rigged election.
- II. Oliva has stopped short of an outright coup d'etat retaining a semblance of constitutionality for effect.
 - A. Interim president Gonzalez may stay on as a figurehead, but army pressure for a military junta may now become irresistible.
- III. In any event, Oliva will continue as Guatemala's strong man. The government will be firmly anti-Communist and somewhat more toward the political right.

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